

## **Historic Ellicott City Flood Advisory Group**

*June 15, 2015*

*George Howard Building, Ellicott City, MD 21043*

### **Meeting Minutes:**

<b>Present</b>
✓ Jim Caldwell
✓ Mark DeLuca
✓ Bob Frances
✓ Mike Hinson
✓ Raj Kudchadkar
✓ Gary Smith
✓ Kevin Bloom
✓ Debra Korb
✓ Lori Lilly
✓ Jason McMillian
✓ Ken McNaughton
✓ Dave Myers
✓ Ron Peters
✓ Bruno Reich
✓ Debbie Slack Katz
<b>Not Present</b>
▪ Frank Durante

- Debbie Slack Katz, Chair, called the meeting to order.
- Group Members introduced themselves. Howard County Government staff (support) introduced themselves:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>
Jim Caldwell	<a href="tel:410-313-6551">410-313-6551</a>	<a href="mailto:jcaldwell@howardcountymd.gov">jcaldwell@howardcountymd.gov</a>
Mark Deluca	<a href="tel:410-313-4414">410-313-4414</a>	<a href="mailto:mdeluca@howardcountymd.gov">mdeluca@howardcountymd.gov</a>
Bob Frances	<a href="tel:410-313-3946">410-313-3946</a>	<a href="mailto:bfrances@howardcountymd.gov">bfrances@howardcountymd.gov</a>
Raj Kudchadkar	<a href="tel:410-313-6376">410-313-6376</a>	<a href="mailto:rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov">rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov</a>
Ryan Miller	<a href="tel:410-313-6032">410-313-6032</a>	<a href="mailto:ramiller@howardcountymd.gov">ramiller@howardcountymd.gov</a>
Gary Smith	<a href="tel:410-313-2001">410-313-2001</a>	<a href="mailto:gsmith@howardcountymd.gov">gsmith@howardcountymd.gov</a>

- Jon Weinstein, Howard County Council Member (District 1), welcomed and thanked the group for their participation and then excused himself.
- Raj welcomed the group on behalf of County Executive Allan Kittleman and also thanked group members for their willingness to serve.

- Debbie provided opening remarks on the work ahead.
- Debbie and Raj reviewed the mission of the group.
  - Evaluating future mitigation/infrastructure improvements on private property.
  - Outreach to the community related to current projects and initiatives.
  - Educational opportunities for community on reducing impact of future flooding not mitigated through County projects.
  - Seek community input and feedback (including at least one public hearing each year).
  - Work towards possible reductions in FEMA insurance rates.
  - Seeking opportunities for additional funding sources.
- Debbie and Raj reviewed the logistics of the group.
  - a. The group will meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month from 6:30pm-8:00pm, at the George Howard Building. The following dates are targeted and will be approved at the next meeting:
    - ~~July 20<sup>th</sup>~~ July 13<sup>th</sup>
    - August 17<sup>th</sup>
    - ~~September 21<sup>st</sup>~~ September 14<sup>th</sup>
    - October 19<sup>th</sup>
    - November 16<sup>th</sup>
    - December 21<sup>st</sup>
  - b. Deliverables of the group were reviewed:
    - **Report** – Written report by December 1, 2015 to the County Executive and County Council.
    - **Outreach** – At least on public hearing to receive community input.
    - **Education** – Campaign to educate community on flooding and how to help mitigate impacts.
    - **Insurance** – Work on reducing FEMA insurance rates.
    - **Continuation** – Recommendation by October 1, 2016 on whether to continue work.
- Discussion items – the group discussed multiple items, which are summarized below.
  - a. A secretary is needed for note taking. Lori Lilly volunteered for this role.

- b. The group's name – it was discussed that the acronym for the group is not politically sensitive and could the name be changed slightly. Ken McNaughton made a motion to change the name, Lori Lilly seconded, all agreed. *Raj will look into the specifics of changing the name with respect to the way the Executive Order was written and report back to the group.*
- c. At the next meeting (after a review of flooding impacts, past measures, and current mitigation plans) the group will decide if subgroups are needed to conduct more specific work between monthly meetings.
- d. Education – Debbie recommend that before venturing into developing an education campaign, we should determine what actions have already been implemented, what worked and what hasn't. Lori volunteered to start assembling some information and will seek input from other Group members.
- e. Debbie recommended that we start to pull together a Resource List for the community. She suggested beginning with the people that have testified at County Executive and County Council meetings. *Raj will collect and manage this information.*
- f. There was some discussion on the Community Rating System and that to increase the score, actions need to be applied County-wide and not just in Ellicott City. Raj knows someone at FEMA that can help direct the group on this and will reach out to him/her.
- g. Mark DeLuca discussed some of the County's past studies on flooding in Ellicott City, including the S & S Study and 2D Model – links to these reports will be sent out to the group for their review prior to the next meeting.
- h. Mike Hinson mentioned that a UMD Smart Growth group is conducting some research on climate change and hazards, areas prone to flooding, personal mitigative efforts, and green infrastructure. Some of this information may be useful for our Group's efforts. OEM will keep us informed of the project's progress.
- i. Bob Frances said that it would worthwhile to have a representative from the County's Department of Permits, Licenses and Inspections on the Group. Debbie and Raj welcomed Bob to the Group.

- j. There was some discussion on whether meeting minutes should be posted to the web and on what web-sites. *Lori made a motion to post the minutes, Bruno seconded and all approved with Mark DeLuca's caveat that all Departments link to the meeting minutes from their own web-sites.*
- k. There was some discussion on Patapsco River flooding vs. "top down" flooding from the watershed. The group will address both though we will not address upstream mitigation for Patapsco River flooding since that is outside of Howard County's jurisdiction.
- l. Final discussion focused on the channel walls, their deteriorating condition and some ways that the County has considered addressing this thus far – easements and fee simple acquisition. Raj mentioned that other methods /processes for managing the walls are likely available.
- m. Raj emphasized that Phase I mitigation effort are already being carried out by the Howard County Department of Public Works. The Flood Group's efforts will be considered Phase II of the mitigation efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Lilly, 6/17/2015